

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS: Theodore Antonakopoulos et al. EXAMINER: Nabil Z. Hindi

SERIAL NO.: 10/723,153 GROUP ART UNIT: 2627

FILED: November 26, 2003

FOR: DATA OVERWRITING IN PROBE-BASED DATA STORAGE  
DEVICES

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Sir:

This paper is being submitted with the issue fee in response to the Notices of Allowance and Allowability issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified application. The issue fee is due on June 22, 2007. Therefore, this paper is being timely filed.

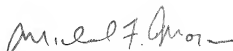
**REMARKS**

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-55.

The Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance states that: "none of the cited prior art shows or teaches an overwriting operation on a disk in an Atomic Force Microscope (AFM)". Applicants note that the claims are not necessarily limited to an Atomic Force Microscope.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, the Examiner may telephone Applicants' Attorney to reach a prompt disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael F. Morano", is written over a horizontal line.

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